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Filner announces support for cancer screening bill

Rep. Bob Filner (D-Chula Vista) has announced his support for a bill by Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Los Angeles) that would establish a program to provide cancer screening, counseling, treatment and prevention programs for neighborhoods served by community health centers.

"Many African-American, Latino, and Filipino neighborhoods have a high incidence of cancer," said Filner. "We've got to bring cancer screening and treatment services where they are needed most — to community health centers in those same neighborhoods."

The Cancer Test Act, H.R. 3336, would authorize grants for the

development, expansion and operation of programs that provide public education on cancer prevention, cancer screenings, counseling services for cancer patients and treatment for cancer.

"With good public education and screening, we can actually save taxpayers money by detecting cancer at an early stage and avoiding the costly treatment needed for more advanced cases," said Filner.

Grants would be made available to community health centers, migrant health centers, health centers for the homeless, and health centers for residents of public housing.